

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 857
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to urge the Governor to assist local education agencies with rising transportation costs.

WHEREAS, local education agencies (LEAs) are permitted by state law to provide safe and efficient transportation services for eligible school system students, and LEAs do indeed provide such safe and efficient transportation services to thousands of students across our state; and

WHEREAS, transportation service is pivotal to getting students with disabilities and special needs to school safely; and

WHEREAS, local education agencies have the authority to purchase school transportation equipment, employ school transportation personnel, and contract for transportation services with persons owning equipment; and

WHEREAS, skyrocketing fuel prices have resulted in increased transportation costs for local education agencies providing transportation services for enrolled children; and

WHEREAS, such increases to transportation costs have created budgeting strains and financial hardships for school systems across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, operating funds for transportation services are not keeping up with increasing fuel costs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this general assembly urges the Governor to provide financial assistance to local education agencies providing transportation services from, any available funds, to help offset increased fuel costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge and encourage the Governor to include such an earmarked appropriation within the administration's general appropriations act for fiscal year 2006-2007.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Phil Bredesen, Governor of Tennessee, and to the commissioner of education.